

Topic: Hollókő, a Hungarian World Heritage settlement between past and future

Proposed section: Theme 9 Design and History (Modernity and Tradition)

Hollókő, the first Hungarian World Heritage site (since 1987), is a perfect case study to investigate the changes in the theory, method and practices of architect protection. UNESCO World Heritage Committee with its specialized sections, such as the ICOMOS and ICCROM, has worked to establish and spread the best practices of heritage management that would include architecture protection as well. This set of international institutions not just generates knowledge, evaluates methods but incorporates the practical needs of the contemporary users (inhabitants) as well. Accordingly, looking at a World Heritage site and the transformations on it based on the discourse of modernity and tradition would lead to useful outcomes not just for the professionals but for the local inhabitants of any heritage site, not mentioning the educational advantageous of such research.

The internationally accepted status of the settlement is a result of the cooperation of local leaders and professionals. Via the success of Hollókő, the country became acknowledged by the international cultural heritage community. After the political change (Hungary became an independent democratic state in 1989), the new governmental focus on cultural heritage management was motivated by and also influenced the researched cultural heritage site. It turned to be a number one tourist attraction, what the inhabitants have used for their economic benefits. Besides all the positive outcomes, it has to be noted that the perception of the settlement and its transformation to a World Heritage site have been criticized in many aspects as well. Accordingly, this site is also a good case study to illustrate the changes of focus from the Venice Charta to the Nara Documents and to its most current additions.

In my proposed paper the case study is going to be presented in the triple concept of theory-method-practice and I am going to focus on different time sections such as before its protected status, at the time of receiving the World Heritage status, after the political change of the country, when the settlement's status was re-evaluated. The three identical time sections shows three different stages on all level (theory, method and practice) and would help to formulate fruitful and effective future steps as well not just for the particular site but in general also.